

\*\*\*\*\*May 27, 2020\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special meeting electronically on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Those present were:

Those present were: Mayor Dan Landrum  
Councilmember Cheryl Graham  
Councilmember Bill Lusk  
Councilmember Susannah Murdock

Also present were: Town Manager Boyd Veal  
Town Attorney Harry Cash  
Finance Director/Town Recorder Carol White

Mayor Landrum led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

#### **Citizen Comments**

Mayor Landrum invited comments from the audience.

Don Strickland, Whippoorwill Drive, questioned why the FY 2020-2021 proposed budget for the Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC) has not been revised to reflect the Signal Mountain Elementary Preservation Fund's (SMEPF) request to take over operations for the coming fiscal year.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

#### **Town Manager Performance Review by Council**

Each Council member present provided a written and verbal review of the performance of the Town Manager, Boyd Veal. Mayor Landrum made a motion to give Boyd Veal a performance based raise this year. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

Following further discussion, Councilmember Lusk made a motion to increase Boyd Veal's salary by 7 1/2% on top of the projected cost of living increase. Councilmember Graham seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

## Discussion

- a. SMEPF MACC Proposal. Mr. Veal explained to the Council that the proposed budget for the MACC was based on the current uncertainties of the pandemic and the proposal by the SMEPF. It was determined that it was best to budget for business as usual to be clear as discussions proceed.

Mr. Veal said that the original SMEPF proposal was for the Town to maintain all the usual expenditures for the MACC. However, he said that the current SMEPF proposal (see attached) for the Council's consideration is that the Town will cover utilities, cleaning services, basic maintenance, and \$56,000 towards HVAC in the building. Mr. Veal said that compared to a normal year's budget, this represents significantly less costs to the Town, and all of the Town funds will be dedicated to the building and not to the SMEPF. He explained that this agreement would not change the Council's role to approve major purchases made by the Town. Mr. Veal further stated that the MACC Board voted to support the SMEPF proposal with a vote of 5 in favor, 1 no vote and 1 undecided.

Mayor Landrum informed the Council that his wife is the President of the SMEPF. Councilmember Graham said she is not a member, but her husband is and that she is a full-time volunteer. Neither Council member receive any monies from the SMEPF.

Councilmember Lusk made a motion to move forward with the SMEPF proposal. Councilmember Murdock seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Veal said that he and Town Attorney Harry Cash, will put together a proposal to adjust the MACC budget and prepare a resolution to formalize the agreement.

- b. Recreation Facilities. Mayor Landrum said that there is currently no method for the MACC to open to the general public safely. However, he said that the SMEPF had been asked by Chattanooga Nightfall to use the MACC facilities to do a live stream or video of a performance for June 1<sup>st</sup>. He said they will pay \$150.00 hour rental. Mr. Veal said the Town will add an addendum to the standard rental agreement regarding procedures that must be followed due to COVID-19.

Councilmember Lusk made a motion to allow the event to occur on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilmember Murdock seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Councilmember Lusk made a motion to allow the event to occur on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and to approve the agreement subject to amending the rental agreement to include requiring face masks for everyone except performers, general COVID pre-screening entering the building, and complying with COVID guidance and regulations as issued by Governor Lee's Executive Orders. Councilmember Murdock seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of the motion.

Council had extensive discussions regarding opening the pool. As requested, Mr. Veal presented the Council with cost estimates of opening the pool for lap swimming. Issues discussed by Council included how to manage a schedule of the swimmers, what age group will be allowed to participate, the need for an adult to be present to enforce the safety/COVID guidelines, cleaning of surfaces, etc. Mayor Landrum said he will speak with Hamilton County Health Department, Medical Director, Dr. Paul Hendricks to get his advice on the plan to open the pool for lap swimming. Council agreed to discuss and vote on this matter at the next meeting.

Mayor Landrum said he has received e-mails asking that the ballfields be opened up for baseball, since Governor Lee has determined that baseball is a non-contact sport. Mr. Cash said it should be subject to social distancing and should follow Governor's guidelines, which include not allowing any use of the dug outs. Council agreed to keep the fields closed to organized sports, as they are currently, and to watch what the County and State do.

- c. Other. Mayor Landrum stated that a media source had incorrectly reported that the Town laid off part time employees of the Library. Mayor Landrum said the Library staff is not under the jurisdiction of the Town, but of the Library Board.

Mr. Veal said that the Transfer Station will return to regular hours (8-4) on Saturday. He said that staff is looking at ways to expand the operations at the Recycle Center, without detriment to the safety of the workers. Mayor Landrum asked if the bins can be lined up. Mr. Veal said that was not possible due to the fact that the cardboard and single stream bins are electrically hard wired and that the pull trucks need space to maneuver.

### **2020-2021 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Veal said that the MACC budget has been changed to reflect the SMEPF agreement. He also reported that the Lions Club won't be doing fireworks, thus there will be a \$4,000 reduction for that expenditure. He said that compensation for the MLK holiday is included and for Veterans Day holiday (only for veterans – not general employees).

### **Other Business**


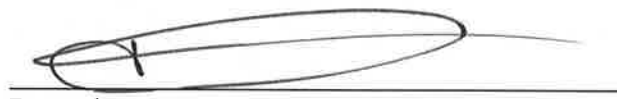
- a. Communications from the Mayor. Mayor Landrum asked Mr. Cash if the Town needs to change the Code to change the agenda. Since Mr. Cash said this would be required, Council asked him to have an Ordinance prepared that would allow the Council to change the Order of Business items on the agendas.
- b. Communications from Committees or Boards. None

- c. Communications from the Town Council. Councilmember Murdock asked that the Chattanooga Nightfall staff clean up after events and that the volunteers make sure to sanitize. Mr. Veal replied that it will be a part of the rental agreement.

**Tentative Agenda**

Council discussed a tentative agenda for the June 8, 2020 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

  
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Dan Landrum, Mayor  
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Recorder